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Security Council

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Letter dated 27 November 2001 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 1 to 31 October 2001.

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on KFOR operations

1. Over the reporting period (1 to 31 October 2001) there were just over 42,800 troops of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) in theatre. The change of command of KFOR took place on 3 October, when General Thorstein Skiaker handed over to Lieutenant General Marcel Valentin who will be in command for one year.

2. The overall situation in Kosovo during October remained relatively calm despite underlying inter-ethnic friction and harsh economic and social conditions. Acts of inter-ethnic violence and intimidation which took place included some that may have been politically motivated with the approach of the election date of 17 November.

Security

3. During the reporting period, a number of inter-ethnic incidents were reported, including stoning of people, houses and trains, vandalism and theft. On 1 October, a mine with a tripwire, found on a Kosovo Serb property near Kosovaska Kamenica, was deactivated by KFOR. On 3 October, two Kosovo Albanians were arrested for killing a Bosniac man in Vitomirica, near Pec. On 17 October, three Kosovo Albanian loggers were fired on near Radisevo near the Kosovo Serb enclave of Banja. One Kosovo Albanian was killed in this incident. Four small shops in Deneral Jankovic (near the Blace crossing point) were burned in suspected arson attacks. The passenger train between Kosovo Polje and Zvecan has been stoned, as has a Kosovo Serb convoy going to Suvi Do. Violent acts of criminal intimidation have been reported in Istok.

4. Politically motivated acts of violence included: a drive-by attack on the President of the Balli Kombtar Party on 19 October, which resulted in the deaths of his bodyguard and a journalist, and the wounding of another person; a bomb attack on the house of a Kosovo Albanian and former leader of the Democratic League of Kosovo in the predominantly Roma district of Mali Alas, on 23 October; and an attack by unknown persons with automatic weapons on the office of the Democratic League of Kosovo in Srbica, on 24 October

5. In Mitrovica, acts of violence, inter-ethnic intimidation and harassment continue to be reported, although they are for the most part minor. On 25 October, a Kosovo Albanian was assaulted by three Kosovo Serbs. On 26 October, there were two incidents, including the harassment of three Kosovo Albanian women by dissident Serb activists, and the stoning of Kosovo Serb children by a group of Kosovo Albanian teenage boys. On 28 October, young Kosovo Albanians in North Mitrovica provoked KFOR soldiers after being denied entry into a Kosovo Serb area, a person stoned a KFOR guard, and two young Kosovo Albanians were arrested by police of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) after pouring petrol on the eastern bridge and setting it alight.

6. On 1 October, a mob of 60 civilians surrounded a KFOR patrol after a vehicle was stopped for dangerous driving. The driver was detained for questioning by UNMIK police. A KFOR soldier died after being shot in the head on 24 October by a Kosovo Serb near Bozevca.

7. KFOR continues to uncover weapons, ammunition and military equipment throughout the province on a daily basis, including such items as grenades, rifles, automatic weapons, shotguns, pistols, mortars and military uniforms. A number of people have been arrested in connection with these operations. On 28 October, three ethnic Albanians with Skopje addresses were arrested for illegal possession of weapons and ammunition. In a campaign against counterfeiters, KFOR arrested a man on 18 October wanted by UNMIK police.

8. During the reporting period, 145 weapons were destroyed, bringing the total number of weapons destroyed under the weapons destruction programme to 10,132. One Allied Government has expressed interest in funding a new weapons destruction programme for KFOR.

Border/boundary security

9. KFOR continued its activities along the borders with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia[a] and with Albania to confiscate weapons, detain persons illegally crossing the borders and deter others attempting to enter the province. During the reporting period, 32 weapons, 201 grenades and mines, and 27,180 rounds of ammunition were seized. Sixty-five people were detained and handed over to UNMIK police. The number of attempted illegal border crossings continues to decrease. In anti-smuggling operations, a Kosovo Albanian was caught on the administrative boundary with Montenegro and handed over to UNMIK police.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

10. With regard to the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC), initiatives taken included a review of Directive 035 of the Commander of KFOR[b] and the issue of the Commander's Training Directive for 2002.

11. Two cases of non-compliance were reported during October. These related to misuse of position and authority, and celebratory fire. Four cases for dismissal relating to continued and unjustified absenteeism were brought forward, and four cases were closed, leaving 26 cases open. The open cases are either pending investigation or the implementation of recent directives of the Joint Security Execution Committee, or awaiting presentation to the judicial system. On 11 October, five officers of the Kosovo Police Service were detained by the Serb Army (VJ) for being inside Montenegro.

12. KPC continued to carry out a variety of humanitarian projects throughout the province, which are monitored by the International Organization for Migration. The project for the Gjiliane sports and recreational ground received extra funding. This project involves 30 KPC members working under the supervision and support of the Multinational Brigade (East).

13. Security forces of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia remain in general compliance with the terms of the Military Technical Agreement.

[a] Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

[b] Directive 035 emphasizes support of the KPC leadership, improvement of the relationship between KFOR and KPC, intensified training and education towards more professionalism, and promotion of a positive image of KPC.

Cooperation with international organizations

14. KFOR continues to provide daily assistance to international organizations and non-governmental organizations throughout Kosovo, on request, and to provide security assistance in support of UNMIK police operations.

Return of refugees and displaced persons

15. Only 1,600 Serbs returned to Kosovo in 2000, and only a very small number have returned in 2001. The Commander of KFOR and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General plan to facilitate the return of Kosovo Serbs through the mechanisms of the Joint Committee for the Return of Kosovo Serbs, in close cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

16. The number of refugees from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia estimated to have remained in Kosovo is 23,863.

Southern Serbia

17. The new multi-ethnic police force began patrols on 22 October in Presevo, Medvedja and Bujanovac, three municipalities in the Presevo Valley.

Elections on 17 November

18. Active campaigning for the Assembly elections began on 3 October. Although some unauthorized rallies have taken place, only minor incidents have been reported. KFOR, whose role is to maintain a safe and secure environment, has increased its presence on the ground.

19. The Presidential and Parliamentary endorsement by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of the participation of Kosovo Serbs in the elections was given on 2 November. Over 150,000 Serbs have registered to vote. The most recent meeting of the Kosovo Transitional Council was held at the beginning of October, when it met in joint session with the Interim Administrative Council.

Outlook

20. The security situation in Kosovo continues to be stable. The main focus of KFOR is to ensure that voting on 17 November takes place in a safe and secure environment.